

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference Griffits	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416).
International Application No. PCT/AU2003/001029	International Filing Date (day/month/year) 14 August 2003	Priority Date (day/month/year) 14 August 2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. 7 E05B 19/00, 49/00, 47/00 A44B 15/00		
Applicant GRIFFITS, John Philip et al		

<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheet(s).</p>
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 14 March 2004	Date of completion of the report 6 December 2004
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer VENKAT IYER Telephone No. (02) 6283 2144

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

the international application as originally filed.

the description, pages , as originally filed,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of

the claims, pages , as originally filed,
pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of

the drawings, pages , as originally filed,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of

the sequence listing part of the description:
pages , as originally filed
pages , filed with the demand
pages , received on with the letter of

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:

the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).

the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).

the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

contained in the international application in written form.

filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages

the claims, Nos.

the drawings, sheets/fig.

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report

IV. Lack of unity of invention

1. In response to the invitation to restrict or pay additional fees the applicant has:
 - restricted the claims.
 - paid additional fees.
 - paid additional fees under protest.
 - neither restricted nor paid additional fees.
2. This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose, according to Rule 68.1, not to invite the applicant to restrict or pay additional fees.
3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is
 - complied with.
 - not complied with for the following reasons:
 1. Claims 1 to 35. It is considered that a method of coupling a device that includes an electronic means to at least one key comprises a first "special technical feature".
 2. Claims 36 to 38. It is considered that a method of coupling an electronic means to at least one lock comprises a second "special technical feature".
 3. Claims 39 defines a method of coupling at least one power conductor to at least one key grouping means
 4. Claim 49 to 56 define methods of providing or reading information pertaining to electronic locks or keys
 5. Claim 58 defines automatically attaching/detaching one at least key means to and/or from one at least key grouping means.Since the abovementioned groups of claims do not share any of the technical features identified, a "technical relationship" between the inventions, as defined in PCT rule 13.2 does not exist. Accordingly the international application does not relate to one invention or to a single inventive concept, a priori.
 - 4. Consequently, the following parts of the international application were the subject of international preliminary examination in establishing this report:
 - all parts.
 - the parts relating to claims Nos.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 40 - 48	YES
	Claims 1 - 38, 39, 49 - 57, 58	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 40 - 48	YES
	Claims 1 - 38, 39, 49 - 57, 58	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1 - 58	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

D1: US 6 276 179 B (STRATTEC SECURITY CORPORATION) 21 August 2001
 D2: GB 2 356 426 A (GUESTKEY SOFTWARE LIMITED) 23 May 2001
 D3: WO 2000/079078 A (INTERLOGIX, INC.) 28 December 2000
 D4: US 5 974 844 A (HARRELSON et al) 2 November 1999
 D5: DE 19654443 A (VOS VERKEHRS-OPTIMIERUNGS-SYSTEME G.m.b.H)
 D6: WO 1997/025503 A (SUPRA PRODUCTS, INC.) 17 July 1997
 D7: WO 1996/023122 A (DAWALIBI) 1 August 1996
 D8: WO 1994/001645 A (SMART LOCK LIMITED) 20 January 1994
 D9: Derwent Abstract Accession No.98-409720/35, Class A85, JP 10169264 A (TOKAI RIKA DENKI KK) 23 June 1998
 D10: DE 20113769 U (LII) 31 January 2002
 D11: WO 2002/021958 A (DRAGONSLAYER INVESTMENTS INC.) 21 March 2002
 D12: DE 299 03 720 U (KRONENBERGER) 12 August 1999

NOVELTY(N):

Claims 40 - 48: None of the above documents discloses a method of coupling at least one power conductor to at least one key grouping means, wherein the keys attach by attachment means to Key Grouping Means and interface to said at least one power conductors in a manner that permits part of at least of electronic means to receive power from a power means

Claims 1 - 38, 39, 49 - 57, 58: Documents D1 to D9 each disclose arrangements for coupling electronic devices to keys as primarily claimed by Claim 1, 49, 51, 52. Features of subsidiary claims 2 - 38, 49 - 57 are also disclosed.

Document D10 discloses the features of Claim 39 and documents D11 and D12 disclose the features of Claim 58.

See comments in Box VIII as to the generality of the claims.

INVENTIVE STEP (IS):

Claims 40 - 48: as above

Claims 1 - 38, 39, 49 - 57, 58: As above

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

All the claims are method claims and most claims such as Claims 1, 10, 24, 28, 58 etc. do not define any specific method steps at all and are therefore unclear as to the scope.